

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 /053 W

-----241750Z 025074 /53

O R 241615Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3400

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1083

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SLPN, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET DEMAND FOR REMOVAL OF AP CORRESPONDENT

1. ASSOCIATED PRESS BUREAU CHIEF DAVID MASON AND EMBASSY PRESS AND CULTURAL COUNSELOR BENSON SUMMONED TO MFA JANUARY 24 FOR 4:30 P.M. MEETING WITH PRESS DIVISION DEPUTY HAD V. A. KHAZOV. KHAZOV ASSISTED BY PRESS DIVISION COUNSELOR V. K. ZHURAVLEV.

2. KHAZOV ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CONVEY FOLLOWING STATEMENT: (BEGIN INFORMAL TRANSLATION) THE ASSOCIATED PRESS LEADERSHIP AND THE EMBASSY OF COURSE KNOW THAT THE MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS GEORGE KRIMSKY WHILE IN THE USSR HAS ENGAGED IN ACTS VERY FAR FROM JOURNALISM. CONCRETE FACTS ABOUT THIS HAVE BEEN PRINTED IN THE SOVIET PRESS. IT WAS NATURAL TO EXPECT THAT AFTER THIS HE BE RECALLED. HOWEVER, THIS DID NOT HAPPEN. IN THE MEANTIME, SOVIET INVESTIGATIVE ORGANS ESTABLISHED THAT BESIDES THOSE FACTS ALREADY PRINTED IN THE PRESS, MR. KRIMSKY SYSTEMATICALLY AND OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME HAS BEEN VIOLATING EXISTING USSR REGULATIONS CONCERNING OPERATIONS, BY HANDLING OVER SERIES D COUPONS TO SOVIET CITIZENS. AT PRESENT TIME, ORGANS OF THE MILITIA ARE
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CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION OF THOSE SOVIET CITIZENS WHO RECEIVED COUPONS FROM MR. KRIMSKY. WE EXPECT THE AMERICAN SIDE ITSELF WILL DRAW APPROPRIATE CONCLUSIONS AS FAR AS THE FURTHER STAY OF MR. KRIMSKY IN THE USSR (END INFORMAL TRANSLATION).

3. BENSON ASKED FOR COPY OF STATEMENT BUT WAS TOLD IT WAS

"ORAL STATEMENT" ONLY.

4. MASON ASKED IF THIS WAS TANTAMOUNT TO EXPULSION ORDER. KHAZOV AT FIRST REPLIED THAT "FURTHER STAY BY MR. KRIMSKY NOT ONLY DOES NOT HELP BUT ENDANGERS US-SOVIET RELATIONS. THE SOVIET SIDE CONSIDERS THE US SIDE WILL MAKE THE ONLY CORRECT CONCLUSION UNDER THE SITUATION." WHEN PRESSED, HOWEVER, KHAZOV ADMITTED THAT "IF THE AMERICAN SIDE DOES NOT WANT TO DO THE ONLY CORRECT THING, THEN WE WOULD BE FORCED TO EXPEL HIM."

5. IN BRIEF STATEMENT, BENSON TOLD KHAZOV HE FOUND IT HARD TO BELIEVE KRIMSKY COULD BE GUILTY OF STATED CHARGES. HE WOULD HAVE EXPECTED SOVIET SIDE TO HAVE THOUGHT MORE ABOUT CLIMATE OF US-USSR RELATIONS BEFORE TAKING THIS ACTION, WHICH "DEMONSTRATES THAT THE WORLDS WE OPERATE IN ARE VERY DIFFERENT." THOUGH USG ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR AMERICAN PRESS, EMBASSY IS CONCERNED WITH CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH US PRESS OPERATE IN USSR, AS HAS BEEN MADE CLEAR IN MANY DISCUSSION THIS SUBJECT WITH PRESS DIVISION CHIEF SOFINSKIY.

6. MASON CONCLUDED MEETING WITH STATEMENT THAT MFA ULTIMATUM WAS OBVIOUS PRETEXT USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH INACCURATE MAY-JUNE 1976, LITERATURNAYA GAZETA ARTICLES TO SHOW DISPLEASURE OVER KRIMSKY'S REPORTING. MASON SAID HE WOULD CONSULT HIS SUPERIORS AND COMMUNICATE AP'S DECISION ON WHAT TO DO WITH KRIMSKY TO MFA PRESS DIVISION.

7. MASON PRESENTLY CONULTING WITH KRIMSKY AND PLANS
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CONTACT ASSOCIATED PRESS HEAD OFFICE IN U. S. (PRESIDENT KEITH FULLER IF POSSIBLE) THIS EVENING. HE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT NOT TO PUBLICIZE MFA DEMARCHE OR TAKE ANY ACTION UNTIL HE HAD CHANCE TO SOUND OUT VIEWS OF KRIMSKY AND AP LEADERSHIP.

8. EMBASSY COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WILL FOLLOW, PENDING RESPONSE FROM AP OR RESULTS ACTION TAKEN PARA 7 ABOVE.
TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Subject: SOVIET DEMAND FOR REMOVAL OF AP CORRESPONDENT
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, UR, US, (KRIMSKY, GEORGE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cb1d2bd2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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